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Mr. Cabell, however, would not have us consider him as a wanton idol-breaker, a radical scorner of tradition, but as one who would substitute a saner, more common-sense view of the past and its achievements. Nevertheless, with all its ease and brilliance, the book leaves a distinctly disagreeable impression. There is a hardness of outline, a want of sympathy, a sardonic humor, all of which arouses antagonism or leads to a hopeless view of the future.

ESSAYS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. By Thomas Nixon Carver. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1915. Pp. vii + 429. \$2.00.

Under this somewhat alluring title of *Essays in Social Justice* Professor Carver has given us a series of articles which are fundamentally discussions of economic theory. Those who expect any description of our social and ethical relations which is easy and pleasant to read will be disappointed. The book is unsuited for anyone who is not willing to bring it to clear and consecutive thinking.

The author has performed at least two valuable services in this work. He has developed an objective concept of social justice which challenges the too-prevalent sentimental morality of the time. And he has described the relations between economics and ethics in a way which will provoke vigorous thought, whatever may be the attitude of mind of the reader toward the author's opinion. Both these services meet a need of the present time when economic and ethical relations are becoming more and more interwoven.

Some of Professor Carver's fundamental concepts will call forth a sturdy protest. The theory that our moral ideals and our social, political, and legal institutions are grouped around the idea of economic scarcity does not seem to leave much room for spiritual and ideal forces in our civilization. The theory that practically identifies qualities insuring survival with moral qualities has not said the final word until, at least, there is a re-defining of terms. At times the words of the author seem perilously close to upholding materialism. For those readers to whom such views are disquieting the excellent qualities of the book will be dulled or lost.

JAMES G. STEVENS.